

REMARKS

Claims 17, 18, 23, 30, and 33 were rejected as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 5,545,259 to Suzuki. Claims 19, 20, 26 and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as allegedly being unpatentable over Suzuki. Reconsideration and withdrawal of same is requested.

5 Suzuki discloses the drain pump on/off operation used in a dishwashing machine. The Examiner is of the view that the Suzuki pump must be inherently "braked" to stop otherwise the "rapid start/stop times would not occur".

10 Suzuki requires the pump to be turned off to stop drainage at various stages during each of the drainage processes (S2 and S4). Furthermore, the pump must be stopped to allow bubbles in the water to disappear and dirt to sink enabling the level of dirt in the water to be measured using light transmittance equipment within the machine as disclosed in column 8, lines 31 to 54. Suzuki does not disclose nor teach towards the pump being braked at any stage in the wash/rinse cycle as is required by claim 17. While the Examiner argues that the pump inherently must be "braked" to stop otherwise the rapid start/stop time would not occur, Figures 11 and 12 indicate
15 that the time for each "off" process does not start elapsing (for example, 3 seconds duration) until the stop water supply drainage process has been completed. That is, for example, in Figure 11, decision step S2-7 (stop water supply drainage) has been carried out. Accordingly, although the Examiner has assumed that a STOP time of 3 seconds implies that the pump is braked to stop over 3 seconds, this is not the case. There is no indication that the pump is braked (as required
20 by claim 17) in Suzuki, merely because that drainage is stopped, presumably by removing power from the pump so that it coasts to a stop. Then, once stopped, Suzuki's pump is not started again

for another 2 or 3 seconds. There is no indication of the time taken for Suzuki's pump to come to a stop once the command for the pump to stop has been issued.

Applicants also note that none of the four rinsing steps shown in Figure 5 of Suzuki include the feature of "repeating steps (a) and (b) for the duration of the drain phase", as required by claim 17. For example, "Rinsing 1" commences draining with a 20 second "Drainage" step and continues with a 10 second "Water Supply and Drainage" step. The pump is then stopped for 3 seconds and then a 12 second "Drainage" step occurs at the end of the drain phase. However, during draining, claim 17 effectively requires at least two stopped periods following the start of draining. This is not disclosed in Suzuki.

Therefore, Applicants submit that independent claim 17 is not anticipated by and is not rendered obvious by Suzuki. Reconsideration and allowance is requested.

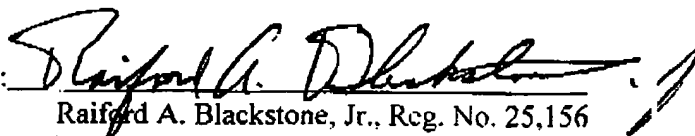
The remaining claims are dependent upon independent claim 17 which Applicants submit is in condition for allowance. Therefore, Applicants submit that claims 18-20, 23, 26, 27, 30, and 33 are allowable. Reconsideration and allowance is requested.

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims of the application are allowable over the rejections of the Examiner. Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this Amendment, the Examiner is invited to contact one of the undersigned attorneys at (312) 704-1890.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: Jun. 24, 2006

By:



Raiford A. Blackstone, Jr., Reg. No. 25,156

Linda L. Palomar, Reg. No. 37,903

TREXLER, BUSHNELL, GIANGIORGI

BLACKSTONE & MARR, LTD.

105 W. Adams Street

Suite 3600

Chicago, Illinois 60603

(312) 704-1890

942539.16 PM3